

COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

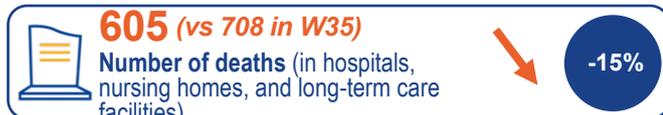
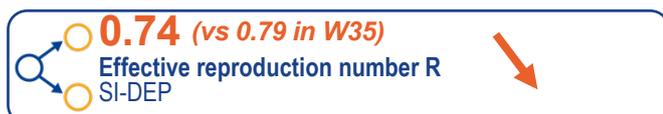
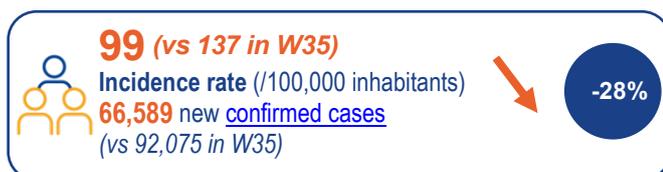
Weekly report / Week 36 / 16 September 2021

As part of its surveillance, alert, and prevention missions, Santé publique France analyses and publishes COVID-19 data obtained from its network of partners as well as its own studies and surveys. This report is based on data reported to Santé publique France up to 15 September 2021.

Key numbers

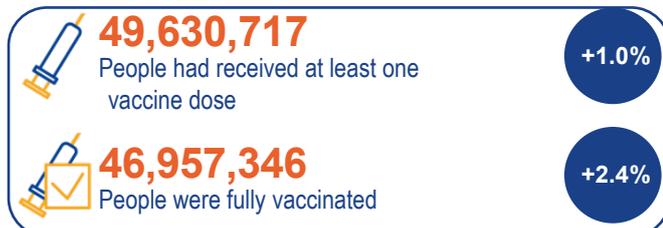
Week 36 (6-12 September 2021)

Compared to week 26 (30 August-5 September 2021)



On 14 September 2021

Compared to 7 September 2021



Key points

Epidemiological situation

In week 36, all the epidemiological indicators continued to decrease in metropolitan France. The situation improved in Martinique and Guadeloupe but remained serious in French Guiana.

- Metropolitan France:
 - Highest incidence and hospitalisation rates in Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Corsica, Occitanie, and Ile-de-France
- Overseas France:
 - Guadeloupe and Martinique: very high incidence and hospitalisation rate but on the decline
 - French Guiana: high but stable incidence rate as well as high hospital indicators on the rise

Variants

- Delta variant identified in 99% of sequenced samples in the Flash Surveys on 17 and 24 August 2021

Contact tracing

- Low number of contacts reported per case, indicating the incomplete identification of contacts by cases

Prevention

- Vaccination coverage on 14 September: 73.9% with at least one dose and 70.0% fully vaccinated
- CoviPrev Survey from 31 August to 7 September:
 - Decrease in the use of preventive measures since late June
 - Vaccination intentions still on the rise
- Importance of combining different measures: vaccination in addition to contact tracing and preventive measures

* Santé publique France acknowledges the large public health network that contributes to COVID-19 surveillance: healthcare professionals working in private practice and hospitals, emergency departments, hospital and private biology laboratories, learned societies for infectious diseases, resuscitation, and emergency medicine. CNAM, INSERM, and INSEE.

SITUATION UPDATE

In week 36, the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 decreased for the fourth consecutive week. All the epidemiological indicators have fallen in metropolitan France. The situation has improved in Martinique and Guadeloupe but not in French Guiana where hospital admissions continue to rise. The incidence rate was down in all age groups, except for 3-5 year-olds (+4%). It remained elevated among young adults and children under 18 years, calling for the utmost vigilance at the start of the new school year. The number of contacts reported by cases was still low, indicating the incomplete identification of contact persons, which limits the ability to identify and control transmission chains. In France, on 14 September 2021, 73.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 70.0% were fully vaccinated. Given the general improvement of the situation observed in the last few weeks, the progression of the vaccination campaign is essential. Vaccination should continue to be combined with other preventive measures, even for vaccinated persons, notably by respecting protective measures, limiting contacts at risk, and respecting self-isolation in the case of symptoms, confirmed infection, or contact with a confirmed case. Combining these different measures is necessary to consolidate the current epidemic trend.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

At the national level, the incidence rate declined for the fourth consecutive week, reaching 99/100,000 inhabitants (-28%), which corresponded to an average of 9,513 diagnosed cases per day in week 36. The incidence rate was down in all age groups, except for 3-5 year-olds among whom it was stable. The screening rate was the lowest among children under 10 years, even though it almost doubled in this age group in week 36. By contrast, the screening rate remained stable or decreased in the other age groups. The positivity rate also fell to 1.9% (-0.5 points) with a marked decline among children under 10 years, which can be explained by the sharp rise in the screening rate in this age group. The screening rate based on antigenic and PCR tests (excluding self-testing) fell but remained high (5,283/100,000 inhabitants, -7%).

The number of consultations for suspected COVID-19 declined in both SOS Médecins organisations (1,430, -13%) and emergency departments (3,291, -26%).

In terms of hospital indicators, new admissions were down for the third consecutive week, with 3,526 new hospital admissions (-17%) and 936 new intensive care admissions (-8%). The hospital load nevertheless remained high with 9,800 infected patients hospitalised on 14 September, including 2,013 in intensive care. COVID-19-related deaths (in hospitals and long-term care facilities) also decreased (605, -15%).

In metropolitan France, the incidence rate fell in all regions. The highest incidence and hospitalisation rates were observed in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Corsica, Ile-de-France, and Occitanie. The screening rate and hospital indicators (based on the date of admission up to 14 September) decreased or remained stable in all regions.

In overseas France, the circulation of the virus continued to decline in Martinique (286/100,000 inhabitants, -32%) and Guadeloupe (257, -51%).

Nevertheless, despite falling hospital admissions, [excess mortality](#) persisted. In French Guiana, the incidence rate remained stable (421), although hospital admissions increased.

VARIANTS OF CONCERN

The Delta variant represented nearly all viruses circulating in metropolitan France, corresponding to 99% of interpretable sequences in Flash Surveys #20 and #21 on 17 and 24 August, respectively.

CONTACT TRACING

In week 36, the number of new cases and new [contacts](#) continued to fall (-26% and -14%, respectively). The public places visited by confirmed cases are consistent with the end of the summer holidays and the return to work and school. In week 36, 48% of contacts aged 12 years and over had a complete primary vaccination course. The average number of contacts per case was on the rise for the third consecutive week (1.8 in week 36) but remained at a low level. This observation suggests the incomplete identification of contacts by cases.

PREVENTION

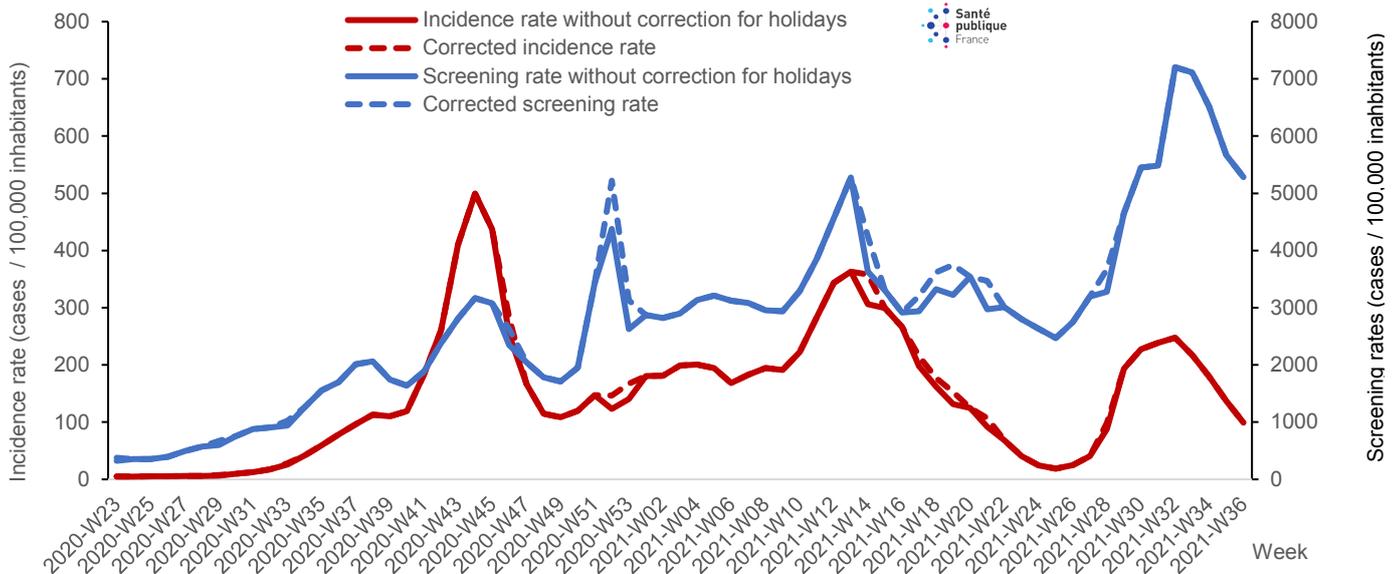
On 14 September, 73.9% of the French population had received at least one vaccine dose, and 70.0% were fully vaccinated. Vaccination coverage was particularly low in Guadeloupe (31.1% and 24.6%, respectively) and Martinique (31.9% and 26.2%).

The results of the [CoviPrev Survey](#) conducted from 31 August to 7 September confirmed that vaccination adherence continues to rise. However, the compliance to preventive measures tends to be falling, and some of the measures are used less by vaccinated individuals. The survey findings also showed that people widely adhere to self-isolation in the presence of symptoms but less so in the case of a positive test without symptoms. Unvaccinated individuals tend to comply less with self-isolation and contact tracing.

Confirmed cases, incidence, and screening

Nationally, the [incidence rate](#) was 99 per 100,000 inhabitants in week 36 (vs 137 in week 35, -28%), while the [screening rate](#) was 5,283 per 100,000 inhabitants (vs 5,670 in week 35, -7%). The [positivity rate](#) fell by 0.5 points (1.9% vs 2.4% in week 35). Among tested individuals who provided information about the possible presence of symptoms, 94% were asymptomatic, which was stable compared to week 35. Overall, 46% of cases were symptomatic (stable compared to week 35). The positivity rate decreased among the 201,474 tested symptomatic individuals (14% vs 19% in week 35) and, to a lesser extent, among the 3,065,445 tested asymptomatic individuals (1.1% vs 1.3% in week 35).

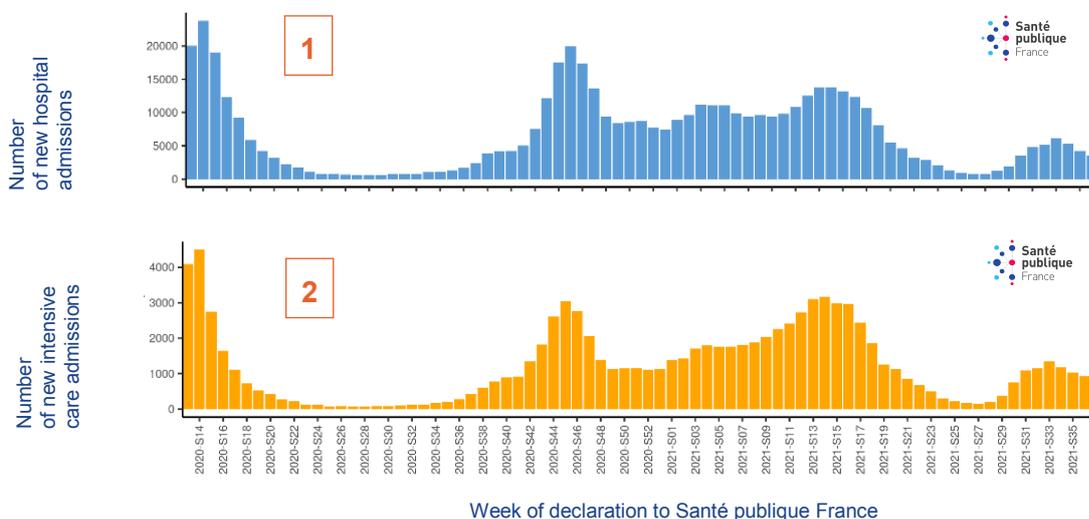
Weekly trends in the incidence and screening rates, with or without correction for the effect of public holidays, since 1 June 2020, France (up to 15 September 2021)



Hospitalisations, intensive care admissions, and deaths

On 14 September 2021, **9,800** COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in France (vs 10,707 on 7 September, -8%), including **2,013** in intensive care (vs 2,272 on 7 September, -11%). At the national level, hospital indicators based on the date of declaration were down, with **3,526 new hospital admissions** (-17% from week 35) and **936 new intensive care admissions** (-8%).

Weekly number of new hospital (1) and intensive care (2) admissions for COVID-19 patients since 23 March 2020, France (up to 12 September 2021)



At the national level, there were 582 [deaths](#) in hospital in week 36, down from week 35 (-10%), and 23 deaths in long-term care facilities (vs 61 in week 35). Data from long-term care facilities in week 36 are not consolidated.

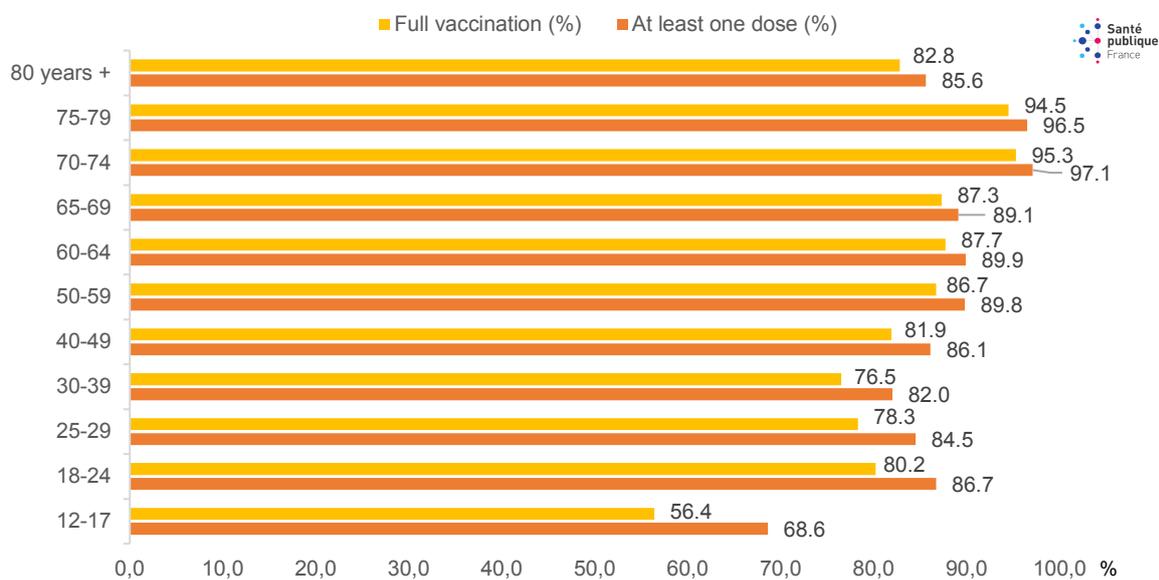
Variants of concern

The L452R mutation (primarily driven by the Delta variant) was detected in 95.3% of screened positive samples in week 36 (vs 95.4% in week 35). [Sequencing data](#) confirm the prevalence of the Delta variant among the circulating variants. Delta was identified in more than 99% of interpretable sequences in metropolitan France in Flash Surveys #20 and #21 from 17 and 24 August, respectively (unconsolidated data). In overseas France, the screening and sequencing data indicate that Delta is also predominant. In week 36, the L452R mutation was identified in 81% of screened positive tests in Guadeloupe, 87% in Martinique, 97% in French Guiana, and 90% in Reunion Island.

Vaccination

On 14 September, [vaccination coverage](#) in France based on Vaccin Covid was estimated at 73.9% for at least one dose and 70.0% for full vaccination. Among the eligible population aged 12 years and older, 49,611,750 had received one dose (86.0%), and 46,946,252 (81.4%) were fully vaccinated.

Vaccination coverage by age group in France on 14 September 2021 (in %)



Sources: Data from Vaccin Covid, Cnam, data processing by Santé publique France

On 14 September, 92.8% of residents of aged care homes and long-term care facilities had received at least one dose (90.3% for full vaccination). Vaccination coverage continued to progress among healthcare professionals: 89.8% of professionals in aged care homes and long-term care facilities, 89.3% of healthcare workers in health facilities, and 95.0% of professionals in private practice had received at least one dose.

Vaccination coverage of healthcare professionals in France

	At least one vaccine dose (%)		Full vaccination (%)	
	7 September	14 September	7 September	14 September
Professionals in aged care homes and long-term care facilities	88.6	89.8	83.9	86.1
Professionals in private practice	93.9	95.0	91.1	92.3
Healthcare workers in health facilities	88.1	89.3	84.1	86.1

Sources: Data from Vaccin Covid, Cnam, data processing by Santé publique France

Check out the surveys of the week

Update on the circulation of variants with [Flash Survey #19](#)
Update on the [use of preventive measures](#)

For more information on COVID-19, the surveillance systems in place, and vaccination, consult the website for [Santé publique France](#) and [Vaccination Info Service](#).

For more information on the regional data, see [Regional Epidemiological Updates](#)

Find all the open access data on [Géodes](#)